MR. A. THANU PILLAI :

615. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 65,513 for Registrar of Co-operative Societies by Re. 1.

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH :

616. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,000 for travelling allowance by Re. 1.

SRIMATI T. NAKAYANI AMMA :

617. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 80,097 under Demand IX by Re. 1.

MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR :

618. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 80,097 under Demand IX by Rs.5 .

MR. M. SIVATANU PIALAI :

619. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 80,097 under Demand IX by Re. 1.

The question that a sum of Rs. 80,097 be granted under Demand IX - Co-operative Department—was then put and carried. The grant was made.

DEMAND No. X—EXCISE DEPARTMENT.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant of Rs. 6,17,732 under Demand X—Excise Department.

Motion No. 620.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Sir, I move to reduce the allotment of Rs. 11,400 for Salt Factories by Rs. 10.

The object of my motion is to object to the import of foreign salt and to stress the development of home production. I have seen a representation by some of the licensees of the Salt Factories in Travancore to the effect that enough salt could be produced in Travancore for home consumption, provided Government through the Excise Department are prepared to extend certain facilities for the production of home salt. I raise the question for the purpose of drawing the attention of the House that, when such a possibility exists in the State itself, there is no necessity to import foreign salt especially from Bombay into the State. Therefore, I press this motion for the consideration of the House.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): Sir, I rise to support the motion. In doing so, I would point out that from year to year the necessity for importing foreign salt, especially Bombay salt, is felt less and less and its import in recent years cannot be justified by Government. The administration reports of the Excise Department show that there has been a steady increase in the production of local salt in recent times. The total quantity of salt manufactured here in 1108 was 6,63,553 maunds. It rose to 8,61,863 maunds in 1109. This year the rise has been so phenomenal and unprecedented that the supply of local salt has exceeded the quantity required for local consumption.

This year, as we are aware, there has been over-production of salt as a result of which we have an extra out put which will lie idle in our depots at the end of the year. While that is the case it is quite unreasonable and unjust to waste our money for purchase of foreign

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[Mr. K. R. Elenkath.]

salt. Moreover, it ought to be the endeavour of every administration to encourage home industries of whatever description. I beg, in this connection to refer to a letter written by the late Dewan Mr. Nanu Pillai to Mr. Sankunni Menon, the then Dewan Peishkar of Shertala. This was dated the 16th Kanni 1053. The letter runs as follows :—

"With reference to your *sadhanom* about the extension of Bombay salt within the reach of every salt consumer in your district I may say general fiscal grounds affecting the whole State operate against its adoption. *Home manufacture ought to be encouraged and the people should be prepared to experience a change in palate.*"

PRESIDENT : Is it a private letter or an official letter ?

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : An official letter, Sir.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : Where is it published ?

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : I have published it in a biography.

Well, Sir, that has been the policy followed by the Travancore Government even half a century ago. Now a production of salt has immensely increased ; and when every Government realise that either national or patriotic outlook ought to guide their actions, how can we justify the importation of foreign materials, especially when we produce them in sufficient quantity ? I cannot, Sir, under such circumstances, but protest against the importation of foreign salt into our State. With these few words, I support the motion.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*) : Sir, I support the motion. In view of what is being done by the Excise Department towards this industry, I deem it is high time to think of some other agency to be engaged for the development of the salt industry. The multifarious duties devolving upon the Excise Commissioner do not allow him to bestow that amount of attention that is necessarily required for putting the salt branch of the Excise Department on a sound footing and to increase the output of the several factories. Our aim ought to be not merely to make our country self-contained in its salt supply, but also to manufacture salt of the best quality and sell it at a very cheap rate. No other State, Sir, is favoured with such natural facilities for the manufacture of salt as our State. It will indeed be a great inadvertance, tantamount to criminal negligence, if we fail to use to the very best the facilities and advantages that nature has lavished on us.

One important reason why we should be self-contained in the matter of salt is that the price of salt depends entirely upon the price that the British Government fix. And they fix the price according to the exigencies of their finance.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Does the British Government fix the selling price for salt ?

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MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*) : Not exactly so. The duty on salt is fixed by them. And when they raise the duty, the price of salt in our state automatically goes up.

Sir, there are various obstacles that stand in the way of the manufacture of salt. They are, chiefly, insufficiency of brine, percolation of fresh water, and the unfavourable weather conditions. As for the last, it is beyond the control of man. No change could be effected by human effort. But with respect to the other two obstacles, in these days of advanced engineering, I do not think it is impossible to overcome them. But a perusal of the administration reports of the last half a dozen years, would make one understand that the attempts made by the Department, to overcome these obstacles have been poor and spasmodic, which inevitably ended in failure. I would, therefore, request the Excise Commissioner to concentrate his attention more on the development of this industry and also the Government to see that it would be better to separate this important branch from the Excise Department ; and I think the Excise Commissioner also will be glad to relieve himself of this work which requires technical knowledge and skill, and put it under the immediate and complete control and supervision of a technically qualified expert. With these few words, I support the motion.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Sir, the object of the motion before the House is to protest against the importation of salt from outside. But I may inform the honorable members that the Government have always been endeavouring to make the State self-sufficient in the matter of salt supply.

In the year 1101, Travancore had to import nearly 9 lakhs of maunds, while the local output was only 4 lakhs of maunds. But this year, so far as information is available, the local output exceeds 16 lakhs while the annual consumption is only 12 lakhs.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : This year means 1110 ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Yes. Sir, the import of salt is being gradually reduced year by year. In 1101, we imported 9 lakhs of maunds and in 1110 we had to import only two lakhs of maunds.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*) : In view of the excess of local output, why did the State import foreign salt ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Sir, the import of this year depends upon the output of last year. The output of last year was less than 9 lakhs of maunds, and we had to supplement it by importing salt from outside. We import salt mainly from Bombay and partly from Tuticorin. The intention of the Government is gradually to reduce the quantity if salt imported from outside, according to the increase in the output in our factories and eventually to stop altogether this import of foreign salt.

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MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*): Is there any minimum fixed now for the import of salt from outside?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): No, Sir. When Travancore had no salt manufactured here, salt was being imported from Bombay as well as from Tuticorin. Bombay salt is liked better by the people of North Travancore and the preference is perhaps due to the fact that the percentage of sodium chloride contained in the local salt is slightly lower than that in Bombay salt.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Has it been chemically analysed?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes, it has been.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Where?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Here, by our Industrial Chemist. Sir, rightly or wrongly, the people especially of the taluks of Muvattupuzha, Todupuzha, Kunnatnad and Parur, have got a particular predilection for Bombay salt.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Can it be distinguished by mere taste whether it is Bombay salt or local salt?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Sir, it can be distinguished by appearance. Bombay salt is darker than the local salt.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): Does not the darkness indicate that it contains more dirt?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): It is not dirt alone, but it contains more sodium chloride.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Can the Excise Commissioner state the different percentages of sodium chloride contained in Bombay Salt and in local salt?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Salt in all our factories has been analysed. The difference in the percentage of sodium chloride is not great. It is not the sodium chloride content that matters here; but, as I have already said, it is the particular liking of the people in the matter of taste. But by and by we are making the people accustomed to the use of local salt. At present Bombay salt is supplied in a small proportion along with local salt from the Alleppey Depot. Bombay salt and local salt are issued in equal quantities from the Munambam Depot. Government have already passed orders to stop the supply of Bombay salt from the Alleppey Depot. But Government hesitate to suddenly stop the supply from the Munambam Depot, because the people of the taluks of Kunnatnad, Parur, Todupuzha and Muvattupuzha have got a special liking for Bombay salt which is supplied from the Munambam Depot. In this connection, I may inform the House that Mr. G. Narayana Iyer, member of the Sri Chitra State Council, raised a question in the other House why the people of these taluks are not supplied with Bombay salt which they particularly want.

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PRESIDENT: That is, freedom of choice should be given to the people.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): So, Government have to consider that aspect of the question also. But I may assure the honourable members that it is the accepted policy of the Government to reduce the importation of foreign salt to the lowest possible minimum by slow degrees.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): May I know the quantity proposed to be imported for next year?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Only 75,000 maunds.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Has the chemical analysis of the two varieties of salt disclosed the fact that the local salt is inferior to the imported one or *vice versa*?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I have already said that the local salt contains a lower percentage of sodium chloride.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know Sir, whether that is the opinion of the chemical analyst?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): That is not his opinion. That is the result of the analysis.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Has the chemical analyst declared that the local salt is inferior in quality to the imported variety?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Sir, I can give the results of the analysis of the salts manufactured in the several *alloms*.

PRESIDENT: Is it worth publishing that fact and broadcasting the figures? But if you compel the Government member to read all the figures, I have no objection.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): I do not insist, Sir. May I know whether the Excise Commissioner has done anything to carry on propaganda to popularise the consumption of our salt?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes, Sir. That is being done now. And as a result of that, the consumption of foreign salt has been considerably reduced.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know when Bombay salt was imported last?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Even this year Bombay salt was imported.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): In view of the large excess of output of local salt, what was the reason which prompted Government to import foreign salt this year?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Sir, I have already explained that we give contracts for the import of salt from outside for this year judging from the quantity manufactured locally last year.

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PRESIDENT: So that the Excise Commissioner could not have divined a surplus output of local manufacture this year. And the Excise Commissioner has already given reasons for the import of 75,000 maunds this year. Perhaps you did not hear.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): May I know whether the Bombay salt has been analysed?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes.

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam II*): May I know from the Commissioner whether any attempts have been made to increase the percentage of sodium chloride in the local salt?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Experiments are being conducted and the licensees are advised to follow certain lines of improvement to produce better qualities of salt.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): In view of the fact that there has been excess production of local salt this year, how does the Commissioner propose to dispose of it?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): That is a problem which confronts us. Some licensees have gone to the length of suggesting that it is not advisable to start fresh factories so that salt manufacture may not share the same fate as rubber cultivation. What we have got in excess may be consumed next year, if the yield next year is not abnormal.

PRESIDENT: Is there any special reason for the increased output this year?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes, Sir; it was on account of the prolonged drought.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether the Excise Commissioner could not induce the licensees to sell the salt with slight profit so that it may succesfully compete with the Bombay salt?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): So far as Bombay salt is concerned, we are reducing the quantity of its import. If we reduce the proportion of Bombay salt from Munambam Depot, there is the likelihood of Cochin salt being smuggled into Travancore. So the aim of the Government is to reduce the Bombay salt supply by slow degrees. I may assure the House that, if favourable conditions continue, we are able to produce all the salt required for our consumption and in about two or three years' time Government may be able to stop altogether the import of salt from outside.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): Cannot the possibility of smuggling from Cochin be entirely prevented by preventing the import of salt from Bombay?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): It is not possible for me to say that all attempts made to prevent the smuggling will be detected and that no smuggling will be left undetected. It is better to reduce it by slow degrees.

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MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): Sir, I rise to support the motion before the House. My object is to make some suggestions for the better administration of the Salt Factories.

Sir, while speaking on a similar motion during the discussion of the Excise Demand last year, I said that one of the gravest evils with which the salt industry was confronted was that arising from fragmentation of salt factories and suggested that legislation should be immediately undertaken to avert the situation that was developing. I do not know whether the Government or the Excise Commissioner has taken any steps in this matter. The evil that I have pointed out is a very serious one, and unless steps are taken immediately to avert the situation that is arising from this evil, the future of the salt industry cannot be said to rest on stable foundations Wherever fragmentation has taken place, the consequences have been disastrous. The factories that have been subject to fragmentation have deteriorated both in the matter of production and in the quality of the product. I may cite only one specific instance. The Tamaracolam Extension No. I Factory is a factory which has suffered from fragmentation. So far as I can see, the out-turn of salt in this factory has been going down steadily, when compared with other factories. The only solution that I can think of to meet the situation is legislation designed to prevent fragmentation. Sir, I suggest in all seriousness that legislation should be immediately undertaken by the Government, before the evil assumes alarming proportions.

Another suggestion which I wish to make in the interest of salt industry relates to the storage of salt in the salt factories. Under the existing rules regarding storage of salt, salt has to be weighed and stored in heaps before it is issued for consumption. This process necessarily results in admixture of sand and dirt. It is certainly not to the benefit of the producer or the consumer. The idea underlying the storage rules seems to be that Government desire to have an estimate of the quantity of salt manufactured and stored. This object can be achieved by other means.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) What is Mr. Karayalar's suggestion for the purpose?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): The quantity can be ascertained by calculating the cubic contents of the salt heaps and with an idea of the specific gravity the weight can be determined. This will be as efficacious as the existing method. This will have the additional advantage of eliminating the earth and dirt that get mixed up with salt. I suggest, therefore, that the rules regarding storage may be suitably modified.

Another suggestion which I desire to make in the interest of salt administration is the provision of a bridge across the Manakudi lake. Sir, there are about eleven or twelve salt factories in Tamaracolam, lying on either side of the Manakudi lake. These factories are under

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[Mr. S. Chattanatha Karayalar.]

the administrative control of an Assistant Excise Commissioner who has very often to visit and inspect them. Necessarily he will have to cross over from one side to the other side and he can do it only if there is a bridge. I suggest therefore, that a bridge at least a foot bridge should be constructed at the point called the bottle neck of the lack which is the narrowest place.

With these observations, I support the motion.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): സർ, ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ അനുകൂലിക്കുവാൻ എനിക്ക് നിവർത്തിയില്ലാത്തതിൽ വ്യസനിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിനെ പ്രതികൂലിക്കുന്നു എന്നുപറയുമ്പോൾ ഞാൻസ്വരാജ്യസ്നേഹമില്ലാത്തയാളാണെന്ന് ആരും തെറ്റിദ്ധരിക്കയില്ലെന്നു വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു. ആ കാര്യത്തിൽ ഞാൻ അദ്വിതീയനാണ്.

ജലം, വായു, എന്നവണ്ണംതന്നെ ഉപ്പും മനുഷ്യന് ഒഴിച്ചുകൂടാൻ പാടില്ലാത്ത ആവശ്യങ്ങളിൽ ഒന്നാണ്. അങ്ങനെ ഏറ്റവുംആവശ്യമായിരിക്കുന്ന ഉപ്പിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം നല്ലതും, ഗുണകരവും ആണെന്നു തോന്നുന്നതിനെ ഉപയോഗിക്കാൻ നിവർത്തിയില്ലാത്തവണ്ണം ഒരു ചട്ടം ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതു് ഒരിക്കലും നല്ലതല്ല.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): അങ്ങിനെ ആണെങ്കിൽ ഇവിടത്തെ നാളികേരത്തിന്റെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിയെ തടയുന്നതിനായി സിലോൺ കൊപ്രായുടെ ഇറക്കുമതിതീരുവ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കണമെന്നു പറയുന്നതു് എന്തിനാണ്?

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): ഇതിൽ വ്യത്യാസമുണ്ട്. രണ്ടും വ്യത്യാസമുള്ള രണ്ടുസംഗതികളാണ് തീരുവ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കണമെന്നു പറയുന്നതിനുള്ള ന്യായങ്ങൾ വേറെയാണ്.

വടക്കൻതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെജനങ്ങൾ ഏറിയകാലമായിട്ട് ബാംബേഉപ്പാണ്കൂടുതൽ ഉപയോഗിച്ചുവരുന്നതു്. എന്തുകൊണ്ടോ നാട്ടുപ്പിനോടഅവർക്കു തീരെപ്രിയമില്ലാവടക്കൻതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ഗൃഹനായികകളൊട്ട ചോദിച്ചാൽനാട്ടുപ്പിന് സ്വാദില്ല, ചെളിയും മണലും കലർന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്, കാരമില്ലഎന്നൊക്കെയാണ് അവർ പറയുന്നതു്. നാട്ടുപ്പ്, സ്വദേശത്തുണ്ടാകുന്ന ഉപ്പാണ് അതുകൊണ്ടു അതുവാങ്ങിക്കണമെന്നു അവരോടുപറഞ്ഞാലുംഅവർ സമ്മതിക്കാത്തതിനുള്ള കാരണം ബാംബേഉപ്പിന്റെ സ്വാദിന്റെ കൂടുതലാണ്സ്വാദുള്ളതും വളരെ ആളുകൾ ഇഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്നതും ആയ ഈ ബാംബേഉപ്പിന്റെ ഉപയോഗത്തെ ഒരുനിയമംമൂലം തടുക്കരുതെന്നാണ് എന്റെഅപേക്ഷ. മൽമൽമുണ്ടു് ഉടുക്കുന്നതിനു

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താല്പര്യമുള്ള ഒരാളിനൊടിസ്പദേശിതുപ്പട്ടിമുണ്ട ഉപയോഗിക്കണമെന്ന് പറയുന്നതുപോലെയാണ് ഇതു്.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum.—Rural*) : മെംബർ തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തു താമസിക്കുമ്പോൾ ഇതുനിമിത്തം ഭക്ഷണത്തിനു വല്ലദോഷവും കാണുന്നുണ്ടോ?

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*) : ഇവിടത്തെ കറിക്കുക്ക് എന്റെ നാട്ടിലെപ്പോലെ സ്വാദ് ഇല്ല.

അതുകൊണ്ട് ബാംബേഉപ്പു ഇറക്കുമതിചെയ്യുകടാ എന്നുപറയുന്നതു നല്ലതല്ല. നാട്ടുപ്പിന്റെ ഗുണവും നന്മയും വർദ്ധിക്കുമ്പോൾ അതിന്റെ ഉപയോഗവും വർദ്ധിച്ചുകൊള്ളും.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): ഇവിടത്തെ കറിക്കു സുഖമില്ലെന്നുപറയുന്നതു വിളമ്പിത്തരുന്നആളിന്റെ വ്യത്യാസംകൊണ്ടാണൊ?

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalial*): ഇവിടത്തെ കറിക്കു സുഖമില്ലെന്നല്ല സ്വാദില്ലെന്നാണു ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞതു വിളമ്പിത്തരുന്ന ആളിന്റെ വ്യത്യാസം കൊണ്ടുള്ള സ്വാദ് ഞാൻ അന്വേഷിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. അങ്ങനെ അവിടെ നടപ്പുമില്ലാ.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*) : Sir, the object of the motion is to eliminate the import of foreign salt. The learned Excise Commissioner opposes the motion on certain grounds. One of those grounds is that in some parts of Travancore, there is a predelection for the salt imported from Bombay. Another objection that he raised was that the percentage of sodium chloride in the salt produced in Travancore is said to be less.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) . I did not argue that as an objection to the motion.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): I heard him referring to the difference in the percentage of sodium chloride in the Travancore salt and Bombay salt. Sir, I am a Chemistry graduate, though I have forgotten much of it. Yet I know enough about salt to maintain that the very appearence of the Bombay salt is suggestive of the gross impurities in it.

PRESIDENT : What the Excise Commissioner meant was that he was not against that but that, the people have a fancy for imported salt.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*) : With respect to that it is quite true that, in certain parts of Northern Travancore they have been habituated to the use of Bombay salt. Now the best sort of salt manufactured in the State is the salt purified in the Ambalapuzha temple where white cubic crystals of salt are produced by slow

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crystalization in the purest form. The Bombay salt, at the very look of it, will disclose the fact that it contains dirty impurities. Yet the analyst of the Excise Commissioner seems to think that it contains more sodium chloride than the Travancore salt. As for the low percentage of sodium chloride in our salt, it has been accounted for by a manufacturer of salt in Travancore, I mean Mr. Karayalar, that it is due to the method of storage. You may improve the method. Then you can convince the chemical analyst that our salt will stand higher than Bombay salt as regards the percentage of sodium chloride.

PRESIDENT: But improvement takes time.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether the member is aware that only third rate variety of salt from Bombay which costs about 50 or 60 rupees is imported here, while first rate Bombay salt which costs Rs. 120 or so is not imported?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Yes, in fact it is not the best salt that is being transported from Bombay to our country. It is only the inferior variety that is imported from Bombay.

The whole thing seems to rest upon pure sentiment. This objection seems to stand upon sentiment. If we are prepared to pay heed to irrational likes and dislikes --

PRESIDENT: But he will kill it gradually.

MR P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): That he will; but it ought not to weigh with Government in view of the large home-production this year.

The fear of smuggling was also referred to. Detection would be very easy, if we exclude Bombay salt totally.

Then there is the question of predeliction as Mr. Varughese put it. Some ladies seem to take to Bombay salt more.

PRESIDENT: You have to respect them.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Any reasonable inclinations of the ladies I am prepared to respect. But we have to take into consideration the demands of patriotism and the over-production of salt this year.

PRESIDENT: That is exactly what I wanted to know. Let us get some salt from Bombay, but let us not continuously follow that policy.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): If this motion is carried, for the next year we need not get foreign salt. Let us try for one year. Therefore I think, Sir, the motion has to be pressed to a division.

The motion was put to vote and declared lost.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha* I) I demand a poll.

A poll was taken and the House divided as follows;—

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AYES. - 20.

1 Mr. N. Abdur Rahiman Sahib	12 Mr. K. M. Kuriakose
2 ,, K. C. Abraham	13 ,, M. K. Madhavan Pillai
3 ,, V. T. Chacko	14 ,, P. C. Narayanan Bhattatiripad
4 ,, S. Chattanatha Karayalar	15 ,, Pacode A. Narayana Pillai
5 ,, P. Chidambaram Pillai	16 ,, P. K. Narayana Pillai
6 ,, A. S. Damodaran Asan	17 ,, Kainikkara M. Padmanabha Pillai
7 ,, A. Easwara Pillai (*Kalklam II*)	18 ,, K. Sankaran
8 ,, K. R. Elenkath	19 ,, R. Sivaraman Nair
9 ,, K. P Krishna Menon	20 ,, A. Thanu Pillai
10 ,, N. K. Krishna Pillai	
11 ,, T. Krishna Pillai	

NOES—20.

1 Mr. C. V. Chandrasekharan	12 Mr. E. K. Kunjuraman
2 ,, R. Dhanukoti Pillai	16 ,, C. O. Madhavan
3 ,, K. George	14 ,, K. Madhavan
4 ,, M. Govinda Pillai	15 ,, N. K. Padmanabha Pillai
5 ,, M. Mahomed Haneef	16 ,, Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai
6 ,, M. K. Janardana Kamath	17 ,, V. Ramakrishna Panickar
7 ,, N. John Joseph	18 ,, T. C. Thommen
8 ,, T. T. Kesavan Sastri	19 ,, John Whitely Tolson
9 ,, K. M. Krishnan	20 ,, N. E. Varughese
10 ,, C. S. Krishnaswami Aiyar	
11 Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai	

NEUTRALS—10.

1 Mr. Antony George	7 Mr. K. Padmanabhan
2 ,, J. M. Joseph	8 Rao Sahib S. Paramesvara Aiyar
3 ,, T. C. Joseph	9 Mr. M. Sivatanu Pillai
4 ,, N. Kesava Panicker	10 ,, P. K. Thomas
5 Srimati T. Narayani Amma	
6 Mr. G. Nilakantan	

PRESIDENT: For the motion 20; against 20 and neutrals 10.

The President has got a casting vote and the casting vote invariably is given in favour of the continuance of the existing system. Therefore his voting is against the motion. The motion is therefore lost.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): This is the first time that a casting vote comes in, to decide the fate of a motion.

PRESIDENT: Of course, you dragged me into that.

Well, the House will now adjourn and meet again at 2 o'clock.

The House adjourned for lunch at 1'10 P. M. and re-assembled at 2 o'clock with the Deputy President in the chair.

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OATH OF OFFICE.

Mr. R. Pitchu Aiyangar, Ag. Commissioner of Police, took the oath and signed the rolls.

Motions Nos. 621 and 622.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The next motion is No. 621 to be moved by Mr. Karayalar.

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Kartikapalli I*): Sir, the former motion was not carried.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): On a point of order, Sir. If on the motion the sum given is cut down, I think it has been brought to a division. Only on that account further motions are allowed to lapse. In this case it has been forced to a division and no amount was cut down. So, I think it will not be affected.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The first motion that was put to the vote of the House was a token motion in respect of the sum of Rs. 11,400. And a very identical motion comes in now. The specific figure by which the allotment is sought to be cut is not the material point. All are token motions and so they are identical motions. The Standing Orders say that, when if one motion is voted on, an identical motion cannot be moved during the same session. Therefore, the further motions are not in order.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT. So, motions Nos. 621 and 622 are out of order.

The following motions were therefore not moved.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR :

621. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 11,400 for Salt Factories by Rs. 5.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI :

622. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 11,400 for Salt Factories by Re. 1.

Motion No. 623.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion;—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,200 for petty construction and repairs by Rs. 5.

The object of this motion is to point out the unsatisfactory condition of the storage sheds in the Salt Depots and of the tram line in the Alleppey Port Salt Depot and to press for their improvement.

Sir, the Alleppey Port Salt Depot has 12 sheds intended to accommodate something like 3 to 4 lakhs of maunds of salt. These sheds are kept in an unsatisfactory condition, so much so owing to leakage in the roofs defficiency of the salt stored has become greater and greater. It means increased loss to Government as well as to the contractor. The roofs of two of the sheds were provided about 15 or 20 years ago. They are now in a decadent condition and the leakages are so deceptive as to escape detection so that, by the time salt is issued out of these sheds, large defficiency in quantity is noticed. I wish

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to suggest that these roofings should be replaced by *cadjan*-roofings. I may point out, Sir, that *cadjan*-roofed sheds are much more suitable for storing and keeping salt than these zinc-sheeted sheds. Deficiency is minimised in the *cadjan* sheds.

Sir, I may also bring to the notice of the Government the insufficiency of the funds allotted for petty construction and repairs. On page 49 of the Budget Estimates presented to us, you will find, Sir, that a sum of Rs. 11,656 was actually spent under this item in 1109, a sum of Rs. 9,700 only was allotted for this item in 1110 and for the coming year it is further reduced to Rs. 9,200. It is evident from these figures that the allotment of Rs. 9,200 is absolutely inadequate for the purpose and I suggest that better provision should be made for this item so that the sheds may be kept in good repair. Sir, it is very important that immediate attention should be paid to the repair of these sheds.

Another point which I want to bring to the notice of the Government is that the present condition of the tram-line which leads from the pier head at Alleppey to the Port Salt Depot is very unsatisfactory and it should be repaired as early as possible. The tram rails are so rotten and worn out that the trucks conveying salt loads from the pier to the Depot sheds topple over at several places and large quantities of salt are unnecessarily wasted thereby, resulting in loss to the Government or the contractor. This state of affairs has been in existence for about one year. I trust that the Government will lose no time in replacing the rails or repairing the line, so that the line may be in proper condition at least for the next transport season.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) Sir, Mr. Karayalar was drawing the attention of the House to two points. One is that the present roofing of the sheds should be replaced. As was pointed out by the Honourable member, the two sheds with the zinc sheet roofings are leaking in many places, I wrote to the Executive Engineer, Kottayam, and we had a joint inspection of these sheds when I was camping at Alleppey and the repairs that were found to be urgently required before salt could be stored in the sheds this year were carried out. And also an estimate for a thorough repair of these sheds has been prepared, at a cost of about Rs. 1,500 And I hope the necessary repairs will be carried out next year. Mr. Karayalar said that the zinc roofing should be replaced by *cadjan* roofing. That suggestion was also placed before me and the estimated cost will be Rs. 8,000. But I am afraid that funds may not be available next year for carrying out that part of the work. But I can assure Mr. Karayalar that all necessary repairs will be attended to during the next year.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): Does the Excise Commissioner admit that *cadjan* roofings is better than zinc roofing?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): Is it not a fact that, owing to leakage, deficiency in salt occurs?

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MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : If water leaks, there may be deficiency.

Another point to which Mr. Karayalar drew the attention of the House is the unsatisfactory condition of the tram-lines Sir, I wanted the Executive Engineer to take up the work. I have also addressed the Chief Engineer to make arrangements for these tram-lines being repaired. Sir, these tram-lines are under the charge of the P. W. D. I hope the Chief Engineer will take up the matter and put the tram-lines in order. Of course, Mr. Karayalar wanted to reduce Rs. 5 out of the allotment ——

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : The Excise Commissioner has written to the Chief Engineer and the Chief Engineer will do all that is necessary.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Yes, Sir. The real intention of Mr. Karayalar is not to take away any amount out of the allotment in the budget.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) : May I know if the repairs of the tram-lines will be attended to in the coming year ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : I hope it will be done.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) : Sir, as remarked by the Excise Commissioner, my object in making the motion was to impress upon the Commissioner the necessity for making better provision in the budget for petty construction and repairs. I am not satisfied with Rs. 9,200 allotted for this. My only object was to urge upon the Government the necessity for making adequate provision for the purpose. The Commissioner has promised to consider the matter at an early date.

PRESIDENT : The explanation is not necessary.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) : In view of the assurance given by the Excise Commissioner, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion No. 624.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*) : Sir, I beg to make the following motion.

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 60,000 for transport charges of salt by Rs. 10.

Sir, my object is to discuss the policy of employing contractors for transport. With respect to this question of salt transport, except for one or two isolated instances, the contract for the transport from South Travancore to various centres in North Travancore is being given to a foreign merchant who at any rate seems to have become as it were a monopoly-holder of this contract. It may probably be said, Sir, that the department is guided in this matter by tenders submitted for carrying out these contracts. That, it seems to me, Sir, is not a very

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satisfactory way of doing business: for it is quite possible that the information contained in the tenders may leak out so that this indispensable contractor now doing this business may reduce just an anna or two from the lowest of the other tenders and thereby make sure of his employment.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESWARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Are not the tenders opened simultaneously?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Formally and officially, they are opened simultaneously. But all the same, it is likely that the rates contained in the various tenders may leak out. Therefore, Sir, I submit, it would be better if these contracts are put up for public auction so that every one would have the chance of a straight bid. That is one aspect of the matter.

At present, the whole quantity of salt to be transported is being transported by one contractor. It may not therefore be always possible for ordinary contractors to compete with a contractor resourceful enough to under-cut others. If it is possible to divide this quantity and to split it up into several contracts, probably other contractors may be forthcoming in our State itself.

Anyhow, Sir, the sum of Rs. 60,000 now provided goes out of Travancore. That is the point I want to impress upon the House. Government will have to devise means to see whether it may not be possible for some Travancoreans to get the benefit of these transport contracts in these days of unemployment and economic depression. That is the object with which this motion has been tabled; and I commend it for the acceptance of the House.

MR. K. M. KURIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha II*): Sir, I also support the motion. I would draw the attention of the Excise Commissioner in this connection to one fact which seriously affects the price of salt in my constituency. On a previous occasion, the Excise Commissioner told us that, in the taluks of Muvattupuzha, Todupuzha and Kunnatnad, it was the imported salt, *viz.*, Bombay salt, that was chiefly used. At present certain restrictions have been imposed in the transport of this imported salt from Munambam to these taluks. For example, so far as the western *pakuthies* of Kuthattukulam, Piravam and Ramangalam are concerned, salt has to be taken from Munambam through a particular route prescribed by the department. As a matter of fact, Sir, salt can be taken to these *pakuthies* by the Muvattupuzha river itself. That will be the cheapest and the easiest route. It is a very circuitous route that the department is now insisting upon. From Munambam depot salt is taken in boats through the backwater to a place called Champakara in the Cochin State. There it is taken out from the boat and loaded in carts and taken over by land to a place called Kudumbanad where it is again unloaded from the carts and loaded in boats. These changes, loading and unloading in two or three places, cost about one and a half rupees per bag of salt. That is what I am told by a Piravam merchant. That means that the people who use

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[Mr. K. M. Kuriakose.]

this salt pay nearly 30 per cent. more for it. And that is due to this means of transport. On the other hand, Sir, if this salt is transported by the Muvattupuzha river, which is the natural and easiest route, the cost of transport per bag would be only three or four annas. Sir, a difference of about Re 1-4 as-per bag of salt is really very appreciable, especially in these days of economic depression.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : What is the difference in price per maund of salt in Trivandrum and in Munambam ?

MR. K. M. KURIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha II*) : I am not aware.

MR. K R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : Is the difference more than two annas per maund ?

MR. K. M. KURIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha II*) . I am not aware.

I am informed, Sir, that, formerly during the days of Mr Van Ross, this salt was being taken by the Muvattupuzha river. It seems it was found that, in Vaikam and other places where the department wanted home-made salt to be sold, this imported salt was being smuggled as it was transported by the river, and sold to the people *enroute* who had a fancy for this Bombay salt. Of course that affected the sale of local salt. That, I understand, was the reason for the department insisting on the transport being made through the present circuitous route. But, Sir, that kind of smuggling and sale at Vaikam and other places enroute can be very easily eradicated. The department has its staff both at Piravam and at Munambam If the bags are sealed at Munambam and if the seals are verified at Piravam, I am sure no such smuggling can take place.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I wish to know whether this restriction in regard to the route forms part of any agreement between the Travancore and Cochin Governments.

MR. K. M. KURIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha II*) : No, Sir, so far as I am aware. It is only a matter of policy on the part of our Excise Department.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Changanacherry* cum *Peermade II*) : What is the price of salt in Vaikam ?

MR. K. M. KURIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha II*) : I am not aware.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Changanacherry* cum *Peermade II*) : Then how does the member know that the price varies between Vaikam and Munambam ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : That is cross-examination ; I am not prepared to allow that.

MR. K. M. KUKIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha II*) : I am not concerned with the difference in price between Vaikam and Munambam. My point is that at Piravam this salt could be sold at a much lower price than at present if only the Government would adopt the easier and the cheaper route, namely, by the Muvattupuzha river. I may inform the Government that there are respectable and responsible contractors who are willing to deposit the kind of security that the Government

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would demand and take up this contract. I am informed also that such contractors approached Government on several occasions, but that somehow the Government were not prepared to consider their proposals seriously. I hope, Sir, that the Excise Commissioner will consider the suggestions that I made and will take early steps to see that the river route is adopted so that the people may be saved from the high extra price that they are now paying for their salt. With these words, I support the motion.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) Sir, I also support the motion. The policy pursued, by the Excise Department as well as the other departments in engaging foreign contractors is highly objectionable. Sir, we have very many responsible contractors in our country who if they are engaged, will carry out these contracts very efficiently.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) : Has the member any objection to foreign contractors being engaged where local contractors are not forthcoming ?

MR. S. J NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : I am sure, Sir, that, if the departmental heads will take it into their heads to advertise properly, certainly my friend's question will be falsified. We have any number of efficient, responsible and respectable contractors in Travancore, not only to take up contracts in the Excise Department but also the contracts in the Forest Department, in the P. W. Department and in every other department in the State.

MR. S. CHATTAHATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) : Are there local contractors willing to take up these transport contracts ?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Sir, there are able contractors for any purpose here.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know whether any reference to the Forest Department or to any other department is relevant now ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : In enunciating a general principle, the Forest Department or any other department may be referred to.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): From the speech of my learned friend, the Liberal Party Leader, I find that not only are foreign contractors being engaged by the Excise Department but that a certain foreigner has actually been allowed to monopolise this business of transport. That is a pitiable state of affairs, Sir. The head of the department may say, Sir, that tenders were invited and that the contract was given to the person that had submitted the lowest tender. We all know how easy it is to find out the contents of these tenders. Quite recently, in the Chief Engineer's office or in the P. W. D. Workshop, we heard of some mischief being done with regard to some tenders. Therefore, Sir, this system of calling for tenders is no good. I would even suggest that no foreigner should be permitted even to submit his tenders so far as contracts in Travancore are concerned. They must be absolutely excluded.

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. S. J. Nair, this kind of casual reference to some thing that, you say, took place in some department, may take the House by surprise. Unless you make your position quite clear, your reference to the matter will do more harm than good. If you refer to what has happened in any department, you must do it in a specific manner. Otherwise, it will create the impression that there is something wrong somewhere. And the House will not be able to make up its mind, and may not attach due weight to your statement as they would probably attach if you give specific details about the matter that you referred to. I am certainly not inviting the member to go in for all the details. But, certainly, the kind of reference that he has made may be injurious in order to clear any misgivings or doubts in the minds of the Honorable members of this House.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): I will submit Sir, that it is very well known fact in Travancore that some case arose some time back about the malpractice practiced a nounting on making charges is some tender already submitted to the officer concerned by one contractor in Trivandrum.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): May I point out that the member does not confine himself to the department?

MR S. J NAIR (*Nedumangad*): I think some sort of departmental enquiry took place in connection with that case, I just mentioned.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Why not you confine to the Excise Department?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Sir, the policy adopted by the Excise Department in giving tenders to foreigners is highly objectionable. Local contractors must be encouraged and contracts should be given to them and to them alone.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Sir, I rise to support the motion. A certain proportion of the salt manufactured by the licencees has to be delivered to Government. It is that portion of the salt belonging to the Government that is reserved for transport. Sir, in British India also a portion of the salt manufacture is claimed by Government.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That question is not relevant. The only question which is relevent is about the transport of the salt and not the sources as well.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): There is no necessity for the employment of contractors for the transport of salt, if the Government portion of salt is also given to the licensees as in British India. The Government also sell the salt for the purpose of gain. It is highly objectionable. According to law.....

DEPUTY PRESIDENT I must now make it more clear. The policy of Government in taking over a portion of the salt is not in question. Mr. Nilakantan must confine his remarks to the object in hand, that is, with the transport of salt by certain contractors. Of course other questions may be raised but not in the discussion of this raised motion.

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MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know—

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I am very sorry, I do not want to give the name of the particular individual talking to his neighbour in this manner, when the House is concerned with serious business. It is highly improper. It is irregular, and if that kind of conduct is persisted—any responsible members of this House talking to each other in this fashion,—notice will be taken of his conduct.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : I am not allowed to go on with my speech. If I am not in order in discussing the way in which I was discussing I must again

(Several members were standing up and putting questions).

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Order, order.

The policy of the Government with regard to the question is relevant in the discussion of this matter. Mr. Nilakantan is at full liberty—no doubt consistent with the rules of relevancy—to advance any argumet with regard to the question in hand, namely, the transport of salt by contractors and any matter germane to it.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : What I am going to say is that Government ought not to have any interest in the sale or transport of salt. What I wanted to say was that according to the Sale Regulation or according to the principle adopted in British India, the Government are only entitled to the duty on salt *minus* five per cent. of the same and they are entitled to no other gain In Travancore, on the other hand, the Government not only take the whole duty upon the salt but also take a profit of over 3 to 4 lakhs of rupees. This three or four lakhs of rupees ought to go into the pockets of the people. In all civilised countries, no duty is realised on salt. British India is one of the very few countries in which salt is taxed. In Travancore there is the system of Government making a revenue of three to four lakhs over and above the duty. This extra amount which Government take ought to go into the pockets of the people so that the burden of taxation may be lessened to poor people. Therefore what I suggest is that the Government should surrender their right over the salt, so that the licensees—

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : The discussion shall not proceed on these lines

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : Sir, if the system is adopted, there will be no necessity for spending money for transporing salt. It is quite unnecessary to spend money for the transport of salt. The practice of Government withdrawing from the salt sale is adopted all the world over.

With regard to the employment of foreign contractors, I am afraid that the arguments advanced against the practice are not quite sound. In the first place, Sir, it is the foreign contractors alone who are inpossession of sea-going vesslels for transport.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) Even supposing it is given to natives will not 98 per cent. of the money be going only to foreigners in

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[Mr. M. Sivatanu Pillai.]

the purchase of the vessels employed in the transport of salt?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether the unnatural state of affairs that was referred to by the honourable member was in existence the time he was in office?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) Sir, I rise to a point of order.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Why should any member be so anxious? I am here to look into the relevancy; and this question put by Mr. S. J. Nair need not be answered and a any question based upon it is not relevant.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): I do not agree with the view that the transport of salt should not be given to foreigners which certainly is a loss to Government. In this case, take the particular instance regarding the transport of salt. We Travancore people have no vessels to transport the salt. We have to pay for the vessels etc. So the 98 per cent. of the money should at any rate go to foreigners and a very little sum will go to the coolies.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) Sir, I rise to oppose the motion. In the first place, Sir, I do not approve of the view put forward that the field of choice of the transport contractors should be restricted to Travancoreans. This is very unreasonable and unsound. The fixing up of the contract is a purely commercial affair and has to be treated as such. The Government or the Department ought to have perfect libery to make their choice from the contractors who offer the most favourable terms. That is the principle that the department should adopt in the matter of selecting the contractor. The contract ought to be given to the lowest tenderer. Otherwise, if the choice of the contractor is restricted to Travancoreans alone, the tendency will be towards higher and higher rates and ultimately the general tax-payer will have to bear the burden of the higher rates. It is unwise and inexpedient to adopt the idea, in public interest.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I ask whether an experiment may be made as a temporay measure?

MR. S CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): I have no objection to a Travancorean being given the contract where he offers the same rate as that of a foreigner. Our sense of patriotism can extend only thus far.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Does the member know that there are contractors in Travancore?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): I am aware that Travancoreans are available but the field of choice should not be restricted to Travancoreans alone. Otherwise, ultimately the rates will go up to the detriment of Government and the tax payer.

Another suggestion I wish to make relates to the allotment of Rs. 60,000 for the purpose of transport. This is provided with a view to transport the salt available to Government from the Salt Factories

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of the Salt Depots. Sir, the state of affairs existing till last year was that our supply was short of our consumption Our supply this year has exceeded our demand and a novel problem has been created thereby.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): But the tender rates may be manipulated ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I am bound to say that interrupting members is wrong. (*Hear, hear,*) At least the question must pertain to the particular point developed by a member in possession of the House.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): I was just saying that a novel problem has been created for the department to tackle. What I wanted to say was that there has been over-production of salt. Up till last year, our-production was far short of the actual demand. So the Department was obliged to import some salt every year. This year there has been over production owing to the exceptionally favourable weather conditions and the department will have to find means for the disposal of the entire stock.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether it is possible to export our salt that has been produced ?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): I need not answer that. If we want to export our salt to British India, there are very many difficulties. In the first place, the salt will have to pay duty here as well as outside.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI (*Thovala*): Is not Bombay salt paying duty here as well as there ?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): No, Sir. Bombay salt is imported on behalf of Government and it is free of duty. It is a matter which is covered by agreement between our Government and the Imperial Government.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I take it that it is a matter covered by an agreement between the Travancore State and the British Government. This House will not therefore be in order if any discussion is allowed on that.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): Sir, it is a matter covered by the Interportal Trade convention.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Is it not possible to revise the Interportal Trade Convention ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That question does not arise.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): Sir, this year the salt factories were able to produce something like 16 lakhs of maunds of salt. Our actual consumption every year is about 12 lakhs. We have in stock about 18 lakhs of maunds of salt.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Is not the production this year due to extraordinary conditions ?

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MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): That is what I say. We may not have the same conditions next year.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Is not the allotment for transport charges of salt only for the transport of home salt?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*). Yes, for home salt alone. The Department should try to find markets for the licencees' salt The Government ought to make available to the licensees all markets. It will be impossible for the licensees to find out markets for themselves, if Government also compete. It will be a competition between the Government and the licensees if Government capture all available markets. What I suggest is that Government should make available to the licensees all available markets and they should not transport any salt. The salt available to them from the factories should be kept as a reserve against a contingency.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Does the member mean that transport includes sale also?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Words have their natural meaning.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): What I suggest is that Government should leave transport almost entirely in the hands of private enterprise. It should be the concern of the Department to find out ways and means of disposing of the stock of licensees' salt.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): Sir, the question arises in this connection as to why Government should transport salt. I do not think that matter has been referred to here by the previous speakers. I ask why not the sale of salt be conducted at the Salt Factories, leaving it to the merchants to transport the salt on their own account to other parts of the State. What my friend suggested was to leave it to the licensees to transport salt. I ask why not leave it to the traders. Either the licensees or the traders may transport the salt. Is it necessary for Government to undertake this transport? We can understand that there was a time when transport facilities were not as good as now and Government thought it necessary to transport salt from the various factories. Now we know for a fact that there are ample facilities for transporting salt from one part of the country to another. And there is no reason why the business should not be left to the traders themselves. Why should Government do this? Why should they store the salt in their bankshalls and issue it to the traders only through the bankshalls? I expect the Excise Commissioner to give a clear answer to this question.

Sir, some merchants have told me that the transport of salt by Government results very often in the deterioration of the salt supplied. When the salt is taken from the factories it is first taken in small boats to bigger vessels and from these vessels again unloaded into smaller vessels and taken to the bankshalls. All this means the admixture of sand and deterioration of the quality of the salt. That is perhaps the

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reason why local salt is not very much in demand. The crystal becomes crumbled. That is why people go in for foreign salt. It appears to me that there is no point in Government themselves undertaking this work. I am told that the salt that is transported is all Government salt. And so the question of the payment of duty does not arise. The salt could be sold at the factories, and the traders themselves could transport the same.

As regards the other question, namely, the system of giving it on contract, even if transport is found necessary, I should think open auction will be possible. We know how tenders are being invited, opened and accepted. There have been references in this House about malpractices in connection with that. Why not the contract be given to the man who offers the best terms?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Does the member know that the tenders are opened only in the presence of the contractors?

MR. A. THAHU PILLAI (*Trivandrum Rural*): One cannot be quite sure. The amount of secrecy that is observed in these matttters is not quite reassuring.

In regard to the question of Travancoreans *versus* non-Travancoreans, I should think that, as far as possible, the work should be given to Travancoreans. But we need not make it an inviolable rule. Suppose a Travancorean offers Re. 1 and a non-Travancorean 9 annas. Then the Non-Travancorean should be preferred. If it is only a small difference, it should be given to the Travancorean. I find that the cost of transport for the present year is Rs. 50,000. For the next year it is Rs. 60,000.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): May I remind the member that I had to come to the House for a supplementary grant because the amount allotted last year was not sufficient.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): In 1109 it was Rs. 45,000 in the budget estimate for 1110, it is Rs. 50,000; and in the budget for 1111, the amount provided is Rs. 60,000.

I was told that the production this year is in excess of the normal production. But simply because more salt has been produced, it is not necessary to transport the same to other places. Why not keep it in the factory? The salt is not going to be consumed in the same year.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Sir, the chief objection raised by Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai is that the contract has been systematically given to foreign contractors. As the members may probably know, salt is transported by sea For transport by sea schooners are necessary. No Travancorean possesses any schooner for the transport of salt by sea.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): May I know whether there is any objection to break up the contract?

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MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : We have done that. The contract has not always been given to the same person for all the Depots. In 1108 part of the contract was given to Mr. T. V. Krishna Aiyar who is a Travancorean.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Who is Mr. Krishna Aiyar ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : He is a rich man belonging to Nagercoil and a salt licensee.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*) : Why was he not given the contract this year ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Because his rates were higher.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : What about the system of public auction ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : I will come to that. The House may judge of the desirability of preferring Travancoreans to outsiders when I give the rates which have been quoted this year. I shall quote the rates for transport to Munambam.

Mr. T. V. Krishna Aiyar quoted this year for transport to Munambam Rs. 39 for one hundred maunds ; the successful foreigner quoted Rs. 29. There is thus a difference of Rs. 10 per 100 maunds. The total quantity of salt transported to Munambam is about 1,10,000 maunds. If this contract had been given to the Travancorean, we would have lost over Rs. 10,000. The House may consider whether it is justifiable to incur such a loss in order to prefer a Travancorean ?

In regard to the rates for the transport to Alleppey, we did not transport any salt to Alleppey this year because Messrs. Krishna Aiyar and Karayalar transported their salt under-bond. And as far as I am aware, they engaged the very same outsiders.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur cum Pattanapuram*) : Did they pay the duty before the transport ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : No. We have got under-bond system. They pay duty only at the time of issue from the depot.

Therefore, I don't think it will be profitable if I give the rates for transport to Alleppey. I shall quote the rates for Quilon. Mr. Krishna Iyer quoted Rs. 31 ; Mr. Caitan, whose rate was the lowest, quoted Rs. 24 and one Chettiar of Tuticorin quoted Rs. 32. We accepted Mr. Chaitan's rate.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*) : May I know from the Excise Commissioner why he did not accept the open suction system ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : The open auction system is not considered to be the most suitable for certain purposes. For P. W D contracts open auction system is not accepted. The tender system is the one preferred to open auction system. There is a very great evil in the open auction system which I have noticed during Abkari auctions. In the heat of the moment a man may offer bids without balancing the profit and loss, and after some time he becomes

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a defaulter, not being able to make both ends meet. The shop is resold for a low rental. Similarly, if the transport of salt is given to the person who offers the lowest rate in open auction, there is the risk of the whole arrangement collapsing in the middle causing great inconvenience and loss to the Government. Further, by the tender system we can sometimes get far more favourable terms than by the open auction system. For instance, the rates to Munambam this year were Rs. 39, 37 and 29. Each tenderer might have carefully calculated his working expenses and quoted the lowest figure possible for him. Suppose the successful tenderer Mr. Caitan knew that his rival would not go below Rs. 37. He would not have then gone so far below as Rs. 29 as he did in his tender, as business would easily be his by the reduction of an anna or two from Rs 37.

MR M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Then may I know, from the Excise Commissioner, why he did not accept this tender system for abkari, contract?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): For all purposes, the tender system is not considered to be the best.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Did any Travancorean tenderer tender for transport of salt to Alleppey?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : There was no transport to Alleppey this year.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIAR (*Nominated*) : For Munambam, Quilon and Trivandrum, was any Travancorean available as a tenderer?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Yes. Mr. T. V. Krishna Aiyar.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : Was there any other tenderer who was a Travancorean?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : No; it is not easy for Travancoreans to compete in the business. In the first place, they should have sea-going vessels and men. Nobody in Travancore possesses the same. If a Travancorean is to take up this business, he should go to his foreign competitor for all these things. That is the reason why Travancoreans are not able to successfully compete with foreigners in this business.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) Am I to understand that even in transport we should be at the mercy of the foreigners?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : The Excise Commissioner was speaking with reference to the present conditions.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : May I know the rates for transport to Alleppey?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : There was no transport of Government salt to Alleppey this year, because Mr. Karayalar and Mr. Krishna Aiyar transported their own salt to Alleppey to meet all the requirements of the place.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : How did they do it?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : They engaged their own men.

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): Did they engage foreigners?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes. An observation was made that information about rates leaks out and that the same leads to unfair competition. That can never be. Tenders are received in sealed covers. At the appointed time, the covers are opened in the presence of all the tenders present. The rates quoted by each are openly announced in the presence of all. If, under this arrangement, any information leaks out, it must be the result of revelations by the tenderers among themselves and not otherwise. So far as my Department is concerned, there is absolutely no room for any such fear.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know whether, the rates and other things remaining the same, the Excise Commissioner will prefer a Travancorean?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Provided I am satisfied about the capacity of the tenderer.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): May I know if it is always a case of efficiency in the case of the tenderer and not a case of the lowest tender?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): As far as my experience goes, there has not been any opportunity to reject the lowest tender for want of efficiency. That also is a factor for consideration.

Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai suggested that the contract might be broken up. As a matter of fact, we invite separate tenders for each place. The lowest rate for each place is accepted. There is no instance in which all the business was given to one man, to the exclusion of others giving lower rates for particular places.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): What does the member say about the abolition of salt depots?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): It is not the intention of Government to abolish the depots all on a sudden. At one time salt depots were in existence in very many places for the sake of public convenience. That was at a time when transport was difficult and people could not easily transport salt to those places.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Does the member know that even at Vamanapuram there was a salt depot?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): As means of communication have considerably improved in recent times, merchants are freely taking to this business and transporting salt to every nook and corner of the State. Government have been abolishing salt depots in places where it was found unnecessary. Now there are only four salt depots in Travancore. When salt becomes easily available, Government may think of abolishing the existing depots one by one. I do not know when that could be done without inconveniencing the public. In regard to the Trivandrum salt depot there are other requirements that have to be met, besides serving the needs of the public. As regards Quilon, a suggestion has been made why the depot cannot be closed, as Sales there, are very poor at present. Salt depots can safely be abolished only when the Government are satisfied that salt can be had at reasonable prices from merchants in all parts of the State.

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Mr. Kuriakose pointed out the difficulty of people in his part of the country regarding the transport of salt from Munambam. I have made a note of his suggestion and shall look into the matter and see how the difficulty pointed out by him can be remedied.

Mr. Nilacantan, who has a very good experience in salt business, stated that Government need not take to the transport of salt at all.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): Does the member admit that it is a consistent suggestion?

TO DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You have exceeded the time.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Sir, two or three courses were suggested in connection with the discussion on this demand. One such course was to try open competition by means of public auction. As to that, the Excise Commissioner said that he tried open competition in the matter of abkari contracts and he found that some persons were rash to rush in paying no heed to the consequence of their bid. That anyhow, is not a convincing argument as it strikes me. The markets are being leased out on the public auction system and properties are sold in courts in the same manner. Such being the case, a trial of this method in regard to the transport question is certainly worth attempting,

As to the contention and the Excise Commissioner's assurance that it is impossible for the contents of any tender to leak out, I may site instances where the contents have leaked out. Taking the case of Mr T. V. Krishna Aiyar, he is not the man that writes out the tender. Some clerk in his office may be doing it. The rates may be wormed out of him.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Then is that not a fault of the tenderer himself?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): I was only saying that such things are possible. Recently in the Public Works Deparment a tender submitted by a contractor was found at the time of the opening of the sealed cover to contain corrections and tamperings and a serious dispute is going on between the person who made the tender and the P. W. D. Therefore that is not a system where holes may not be picked. In my opinion, the open auction system is worth a trial in the interests of persons in Travancore who may venture to go in. The licensees are transporting salt from their *alloms* to various centres in North Travancore. If they manage to do that successfully, I think transport of Government salt to various places may be left to licensees themselves.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): May I know, to what all places please?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Mr. T. V. Krishna Aiyar is transporting his salt to Alleppey; Mr, Karayalar is also tranporting to Alleppey. If not the present Karayalar, his ancestor was transporting to Quilon.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): That means inland transport.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Yes, though not necessarily.

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MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : When did he transport to Quilon ?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*) : Some years ago.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) : No, Sir.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*) : I am subject to correction. That was what I thought from a talk with the late Mr. Subramonia Karayalar.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Was not salt transported in motor lorries ?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*) : In inland transport that can be done.

It is therefore I suggested to the Commissioner why he may not break up the quantity of salt to be transported, so that inland transport may be feasible. All these are possibilities worth experimenting ; and when the learned Commissioner says he knows only one method of transport and that by sea in big vessels from Tuticorin, I beg to submit, he is practically shutting out the door to new methods. If he makes an honest attempt to divert transport——

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : So far as I understood the Commissioner, he said it is cheaper to transport larger quantities.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*) : If the whole quantity is to be removed in a lump, some such method may be required. All that I say is, it is possible to try other means.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) Is the member aware that every facility is given to traders for transporting salt by land ?

MR. P. K NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*) I am not aware.

Therefore, I am submitting that the Commissioner's arguments, though they may *prima facie* strike one as tenable, have not convinced me. Hence I press the motion.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) . I have no word to add by way of second reply.

The motion was put to vote and lost.

Motions Nos. 625 to 627.

The following motions were not moved :—

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR :

625. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 60,000 for transport charges of salt by Rs. 5.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR :

626. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 75,256 for Salt Business by Rs 5.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI :

627. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,33,599 for salt by Re. 1.

Motions Nos. 628 and 629.

The following motions were not moved as they were inadmissible :—

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI :

628. To reduce the allotment of Rs 2,165 for the Assistant Excise Commissioner by Re. 1.

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MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI :

629. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,165 for Assistant Excise Commissioner by Re. 1.

Motion No. 630.

The following motion was not moved :—

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI :

630. To omit the allotment of Rs 1,686 for Manager

Motion Nos. 631 to 638.

The following motions were not moved as they were inadmissible ;

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI :

631. To reduce the allotment of Rs 17,706 for Head Clerk, Head Accountant, etc., by Re. 1.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI :

632. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,000 for travelling allowances by Re. 1.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI :

633. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,000 for travelling allowance by Re. 1.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI :

634. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,000 for travelling allowance by Re. 1.

MR. V. RAMAKRISHNA PANICKER :

635. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,000 for travelling allowances by Re. 1.

MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR ;

636. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,000 for travelling allowance by Re. 5.

MR. K. SANKARAN :

637. To reduce the allotment of Rs. Rs. 3,000 for travelling allowance by Re. 1.

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI :

638. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,000 for travelling allowance by Re. 1.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : Sir, what about motion No. 630 ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : The member is expected to be alive to what is going on in the House.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : I was quite alive. But I could not hear.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : The member should have stated it then. Of course, I am prepared to say that members are expected to be fully alive to what is going on in the House.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : I was quite alive; but I could not hear. As soon as I could, I know, within a second, I stood and wanted to clear my doubt.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : In that case, the only answer is that sometimes people who are in the House may not be able to hear. There have been instances like that. But here there is this important fact that people who are seated very much farther away than Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai had no doubt or difficulty in this matter.

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Motion No. 639.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Sir, I beg to move :

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 42,048 for Commissioner by Rs. 5. to discuss Government policy on salt, tobacco and abkari and customs.

Sir, I wish first to take up the question of salt. Years ago people used to manufacture salt on their own account. The only condition was that the Government had to be given a share of the salt manufactured. Subsequently, Government interfered and made it a monopoly so that the whole salt manufactured was taken over to the custody of Government and they were alone empowered to sell salt. Afterwards they introduced what is called the *modified excise system* so that the licensees who manufactured the salt had to deliver only a portion of their salt to Government and were allowed to sell the remaining salt on their own account.

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*): Sir, I rise to a point of order. We have discussed the Demand on Salt. We are now on Excise. IV A. The Honourable Member is discuseing about salt. I submit that it is irrelevant because we have nothing more to do with salt.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It does not mean that Mr. Nilakantan shall not say anything about salt.

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*): The discussion about salt has been finished.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: He is referring to salt as one instance.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Now the salt manufacture has been considerably developed and a great quantity of salt comes to the share of Government. Both the parties sell the salt. The Government are unable to compete with licensees. The result is that the Government are forced to exercise some control over the sale of salt.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Your motion relates to salt, tobacco and abkari and customs. I am only pointing out that.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): The result is this. Government have the power of controlling the sale of salt. They reserve the right to close one factory or another for the purpose of selling their own salt. This directly goes against the principle known as the modified system. That system was introduced to induce people to manufacture best salt by competition among the licensees themselves. As the Government have to sell their own salt, they compel the licencees to sell their salt at a fixed price. The licensees get the maximum quantity fixed for the price. What is the result? We find that the licensees in order to make immense profits manufacture the worst salt possible. The salt manufactured and supplied to the people in the factories is extremely bad as the licensees have no inducement to manufacture good salt.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The time allotted for this Demand is over. So this motion as well and the other remaining motions lapse.

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Motion Nos. 640 to 648.

The following motions were not moved as the time allotted for the Demand was over:—

MR. S. J. NAIR :
640. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 42,048 for Commissioner by Re. 1.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR :
641. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 42,048 for Commissioner by Rs. 5.

MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR :
642. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 49,735 for Commissioner by Rs. 5.

MR. R. SIVARAMAN NAIR :
643. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 29,182 for Assistant Excise Commissioners by Re. 1.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI :
644. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,91,191 for Excise by Rs. 10.

SRIMATI T. NARAYANI AMMA :
645. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,91,191 for Excise by Re. 1.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI :
646. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,91,191 for Excise by Re. 1.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN :
647. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 30,351 for Customs by Re. 1.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI :
648. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 92,942 for Customs by Re. 1.

Demand No. X.—Excise Department for Rs. 6,17,732 was put and carried, and the grant was made.

DEMAND XI—FOREST.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 7,95,255 under Demand XI—Forest.

Motion No. 649.

SRIMATI T. NARAYANI AMMA (*Nominated*) : I move that the allotment of Rs. 750 for minor produce be reduced by Re. 1.

My object in making this motion is to consider the question o drawing greater income from minor produce.

I learn, Sir, that there are several important items included in minor produce which can be made into useful industrial products; and yet the Department does not seem to get substantial income from this source. In 1109, for instance, the minor produce removed from forest by Government agency, fetched only Rs. 2,565 and those removed by purchasers or consumers fetched Rs. 32,546. There was a decrease under these heads in the current year ; and the provision made in the next year's budget is for a receipt of Rs. 2,400 for minor produce removed by Government agency and for a receipt of Rs. 30,000 for minor produce removed by consumers or purchasers.

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